

November 4, 2018

The Victory of Christ's Resurrection!
1Corinthians 15:12-34

We've already tackled one of the most misunderstood topics in this portion of 1Corinthians 15: *that Paul was not authorizing baptism of the living for the dead* – but that he was merely pointing out the inconsistency of their beliefs & traditions!

READ: 1Corinthians 15:12-19 (NLT)

12-19) 2x "...no resurrection, then Christ has not been raised"
-Simple repetition? Reaction? Or cover 5 lies generated!
-14) If Christ has not been raised, then...
-preaching useless; faith useless; apostles lying
-17) If Christ has not been raised, then...
-faith is useless; guilty of sins; believers are lost!
*They're even calling Jesus a liar: "I am the resurr..."

If our hope in Christ is only for this life, then pity us most!

Why? Because living in union with Christ means living counter-culturally, moving in constant opposition to the world's priorities & purposes, and guarantees suffering intense persecution for our faith in Jesus. This is exactly what Paul says **30-34!**

READ: 1Corinthians 15:30-34 (NLT)

Jesus said, "***The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.'*** Since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. (Jn 15:19-20)

Jesus also said, "***In this world you will have trouble; but take heart, I have overcome the world.***" How has Jesus overcome the world – Thru His death or thru His Resurrection? *His death looked like victory to the enemy; but death simply couldn't hold Him from bursting forth with the Resurrection Life of God!*

READ: 1Corinthians 15:20-28 (NLT)

The consummation of the kingdom of God

20-23) Because we're all born from Adam, we will all die
-But for those born again of Spirit, we will all be raised
-Christ was raised as the first of the resurrection harvest
-"a harvest" implies many more than one! *Who?*

-Pentecost – celebrates second harvest, 1st crop

-We'll be resurrected (*ours completed*) when He Returns
-How many times will Christ Return?
-Those who believe in a "Rapture" need 2 returns
-1Thes 4:13-18

24-26) "...after that (His Return) the end will come..."

-After Christ returns, He judges & destroys His enemies
-He must reign "***until He humbles all enemies***"
-His enemies must be humbled before destroyed
-He must reign before His enemies are destroyed
-His reign thru us is the humbling of His enemies!

Therefore, Christ is reigning now on earth in/thru His people!

There's no event that interrupts the sequence of Christ's Resurrection, Return, Judgment, Re-creation, & Kingdom Consummation – at which time He will hand over the Kingdom to Father. By the victory of Christ's resurrection over death, He is now reigning among/in/thru His people until His Return!

-**Luke 17:20-21** – His kingdom is now among/in/thru us!
-**Matt 6:33** – Jesus "inaugurated" God's K. thru the cross
all these things will be added now, when you need them!)

-How is Christ's reign in us now humbling Satan & his legions?
We human vessels of God are lesser creatures than His enemies. So by giving us the victory in life over sin, death, hell, and Satan's lies (*Jesus is "Alethia" – God's truth personified*), He is humiliating His enemies in/thru us on earth until He returns to judge the living and the dead!

27-28) Jesus will consummate the kingdom of God!

-Creation is under Christ's authority (as Creator)
-Jesus' Judgment triggers new creation (heaven/earth)
-Re-creation will consummate the Kingdom of God
-Jesus will present the Kingdom to His Father
-Jesus will place Himself under God's authority
-God will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere

INVITATION:

- 1) Has Resurrection already begun for you (in your spirit)?
- 2) Are you enjoying life in Christ's Kingdom reign now?

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Act out with kids: a new believer on way to be baptized, but dies en route! Put her up on the baptistery cover; cover her with spices; put a sheet over her; and start to walk away (*one child sneaks behind the baptistery undetected*)

As you walk away with the children, you remember you're in Corinth; they baptize the dead (*baptize a living person as a substitute for the one who died before being baptized!*)

Walk back to the dead body and ask if she wants to be baptized; hidden child responds, "YES!" SO, you make plans to baptize the living as a substitute for the believer who died!

READ: 1Cor 15:29 – Paul is saying 2 things here:

- 1) If you don't believe in the resurrection, then why bother to baptize believers who didn't get baptized before dying?
- 2) There is no benefit of baptizing a living substitute for a dead believer! It's man's superstition, not a God's truth!

(Props: cane, table cloth, spices & flowers)

KID'S QUESTIONS:

- 1) Can anyone else be baptized FOR YOU to show your faith?
- 2) What is the purpose of being baptized in water?
- 3) Can anyone else believe in Jesus to receive YOUR salvation?

BULLETIN QUESTIONS:

Use these questions as "conversation starters" with your family

- 1) What are the 6 results if Christ is not resurrected? (v.13-18)
- 2) Which truths of salvation depend upon Christ's resurrection?
- 3) What happens after Christ returns?
- 4) When, where and how is Jesus reigning now?
- 5) How are we involved with Jesus in humbling His enemies?

The only tenable interpretation is that there existed amongst some of the Christians at Corinth a practice of baptizing a living person in the stead of some convert who had died before that sacrament had been administered to him. Such a practice existed amongst the Marcionites in the second century, and still earlier amongst a sect called the Corinthians. The idea evidently was that whatever benefit flowed from baptism might be thus vicariously secured for the deceased Christian. St. Chrysostom gives the following description of it:--"After a catechumen (i.e., one prepared for baptism, but not actually baptised) was dead, they hid a living man under the bed of the deceased; then coming to the bed of the dead man they spake to him, and asked whether he would receive baptism, and he making no answer, the other replied in his stead, and so they baptised the 'living for the dead.'" Does St. Paul then, by what he here says, sanction the superstitious practice? Certainly not.

Luke 17:20-21 (GNT)

20Some Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would come. His answer was, "The Kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. 21No one will say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!'; because the Kingdom of God is within you."

Matthew 6:33 (NAS)

"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (all that you need to live on earth) will be added (given) unto you."